



- WORK NOTES -

EPA O&M – Meeting #8
September 8, 2004
Venture Fireside Room

ADMINISTRATIVE
RECORD

AT A GLANCE

NEXT MEETING: October 13, 2004; 7:00 am – 9:00 am
Venture Inn, Fireside Room

Actions Needed/Agenda for Next Meeting

Wendy:

- Complete transmittal letter for Flyers for Renter's Notification
- Work with John P. to start developing a chart that addresses various scenarios and how to deal with them. (Perhaps this becomes "Living With Vermiculite II".)

Jim:

- Visit with Board of Realtors, Chamber, Rotary, etc.
- Begin summarizing (with Peggy and John P.?) a list of homeowner concerns.

A starting place could be a framework addressing:

- Homeowners with vermiculite
- Contractors with vermiculite
- Homeowners with other asbestos
- Contractors with other asbestos

FROM THE September 8th MEETING

Attending

The Operations and Maintenance Team members present: Jim Christiansen (via conference phone), Dan Thede, Alan Stringer, Peggy Churchill, Ron Anderson and Wendy Thomi. Catherine LeCours, Project Manager for MT DEQ, will be replacing Kevin Kirley. John Podolinsky from Montana DEQ Asbestos Control Program joined us for the discussions. Other guests included DC Orr. Facilitator: Sandy Matheny

The Agenda

1. Property Owner information disclosure policy
2. Continue renter's update discussions.
3. Discuss current regulation status – State, federal, local

Property Status Information Disclosure Policy

As a rule, information on the status of property clean up is not offered to people other than property owners. It is public information, however, and is handled on a case-by-case basis.

Renter's Disclosure Process Update

We reviewed a draft transmittal letter to realtors intended to accompany the 'To Renters' flyers. Wendy will make minor modifications offered by the group. A specific invite to realtors to join the O&M team for a meeting is included in the letter. Follow up calls are planned. The group also briefly brainstormed locations to post the flyers. Included were Empire, Rosaurers, the city halls and Laundromats.

Regulation Discussion

Ron, Wendy and John all brought handouts to support the discussion. A complete set is on file at the EPA Information Center.

Dan and Ron noted that there are no specific City or County ordinances in place. Ron provided a Special Waste Management Policy handout for the Libby Class II Landfill. Three employees have received training to be certified load inspectors. A random load inspection process is in affect. If a problem is detected, the site is cordoned off and wet down and EPA is notified. The green box situation doesn't appear to be a significant problem right now. Long range, the County plans to have sufficient landfill capacity and trained personnel in place.

Wendy provided a fact sheet outlining Legislative History pertinent to working with asbestos. The fact sheet is provided by the Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration.

John Podolinsky provided a collection of information pertaining to State, EPA, OSHA and DOT regulations for dealing with asbestos. Included in the handouts was a brochure for Building Owners, Contractors and Homeowners, a description of the Asbestos Control Program, and lists of websites, consultants, contractors, laboratories, and approved training courses. John noted that an effort is underway to look at the current DEQ program and find ways to make it 'smarter' and, perhaps, to tailor it to Libby's situation. Bottlenecks are often experienced in working with building code and permitting offices and with landfill operators.

Expanding on the Regulation Discussion – (From The August Meeting)

What to do if you 'bump' into vermiculite? (E.g. Gas stations new sewer lines, boat ramp, new construction, etc.) The response to this while EPA is here is easier, later on is the key. Who is in charge? How much is discovered and what is acceptable? How is this regulated? Local ordinance?"

And we added: What if it's a major remodeling? Is it part of the required permitting process? Perhaps a fact sheet will be a starting place.

The group began with defining the problem a little more clearly.

- There are differences in the way we deal with it (between contractors). Fairness is a concern to some.
- There is no common mechanism to deal with 'new' problems (e.g. naturally-occurring asbestos).
- There is a lack of knowledge, which can lead to unrealistic (or differing) expectations of priorities.
- There is also a lack of awareness and acceptance of the level of hazard.
- There is not an understanding of the regulations for transporting asbestos.
- Agreements with landowners different than on public property?

Some Next Steps

1. Gather existing regulations – state, federal, and local. (Follow up with John P. on transporting asbestos, Ron Anderson for landfill requirements, etc.) Are there opportunities for joint resolutions here?
2. Outline current procedures and protocols expected of contractors (for a possible winter gathering of contractors involved).
3. Develop a briefing package to include:
 - Clear guidelines outlining expectations (who will do what).
 - Current regulations and acceptable procedures.
4. Start one-to-one and small group conversations/education with active contractors.
5. Develop an inventory of concerns by contractors (and separately for homeowners).

In the Bin: Basic safety procedures